



SERIES: LOOKING BACK – MOVING FORWARD

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Saturday, August 6, 2022

Scripture: Ephesians 5:21-24

TITLE: Don't Be a Doormat

Submit. What comes to mind when I say the word “submit”? If you're like most, this word brings a sense of unease and probably some negative thoughts when it comes to marriage and family. My question is, “should it?” The answer might surprise you.

Let's turn back to Ephesians 5:21-24 as Paul will bring much clarity to an often misunderstood and abused passage from the Bible.

And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

Don't shut off the podcast! Yes, this is a passage about marriage, but even if you're not married or never want to be, there is something here for us all.

Paul is continuing his teaching about living as children of the light. There is a way a Christian should think and act. There are ways that we should not think and act. That's what Paul is teaching.

But then he turns to the right way to conduct a marriage.

He says, “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

You see, most people focus on verse 22, which says, “Wives submit to your husbands.” And this is true. The Bible teaches this, but we forget that Paul said, “husbands, submit to your wives. Wives, do the same to your husband.”

Submit does not mean to be a doormat. It does not mean “be a rubber stamp to the whims and decisions of your spouse.”

It means to defer. It means to trust and follow into place. It's a military term.

God is a God of design and order. You see it in the universe. You see it in the world. You see it in church. You see it in the relationship between servants and masters. And of course, you see it in the home between parents and children, and here between husbands and wives.

You know, as an employee, I have no problem submitting to a boss that I trust. As a child, I had no problem submitting to a parent I trusted.

If a husband is following God, it makes it a lot easier to trust and defer. As a godly husband, it's easy to defer to a wife who is godly.

Remember, marriage is a partnership. It's a team. It's a deferring to strengths and weaknesses. It's about trusting God, trusting each other, and trusting the outcome God desires.

Today my challenge for you is to trust and submit – to defer. If you're married, find one practical way to communicate that trust and demonstrate it. If you're single, find one way to communicate that trust and demonstrate it to those at work or in your church. If you're a child at home, find one way to convey that trust and demonstrate it today.

Christ is over the church, over your family, and over you. When Christ is in His proper place, we can all trust and obey.